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between the years 1912 and 1932 and published several hundred years later. It gives an imaginary account of the rapid progress which socialism is supposed to make in this period, and of its forcible repression by the ruling class, whose conduct, organization and pitiless tyranny (continued, as the editor explains, for several centuries), causes it to be denominated *The Iron Heel*. The first half of the book is in part given to a radical arraignment of existing evils, in part to a prosey rehash of the worst of Marxian economics. The hero who, the author assures us, is a profound philosopher, is distinguished by rudeness of manner, crudeness of ideas, and sublime confidence in the verity of socialistic fallacies. The last half of the book is a nightmare of intrigue and bloodshed.

It is difficult to determine what the author's purpose in writing such a book could be. As a romance it is insufferably dull and almost unpardonable, coming from the gifted pen of the author of *The Call of the Wild*. As a book for socialist propaganda it is far less persuasive than many an existing tract; and its picture of the results of socialistic agitation will appear to some as grotesquely incredible and to others as frightfully repellant. This danger is recognized by the more thoughtful socialists and a word of caution to those who have welcomed this book as a great addition to the socialist literature is given by Mr. John Spargo in a recent number of the *International Socialist Review*. As a prophecy, the book must appear to both liberal and conservative students, as most impossible, absurdly misinterpreting the trend of things toward greater toleration, greater liberty and humaner sentiments.

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*The Common Sense of the Milk Question.* By JOHN SPARGO. (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1908. Pp. xiv, 351. \$1.50).

This volume is for the lay reader and treats of the politico-social aspects of a problem which has a very intricate scientific and technical side. The title and preface lead one to believe that the whole milk question in its broader aspects is presented, but such is not the case. About four-fifths of the volume is a plea for infants' milk dépôts, and though thus limited it should have a wide

circulation, presenting as it does in the course of the argument, in non-technical language, the problems connected with milk as a food for infants (including the question of the decline in the habit of nursing offspring noticed among the women of more advanced civilization), the composition of milk, the filth found in practically all commercial milk and the diseases conveyed by milk to infants. Incontrovertible arguments for a better supply of milk for infants are presented, especially in the statistical records of the great saving of lives by such agencies as the Straus Dépôts in New York City and the Rochester Municipal Infants' Milk Dépôt. The methods and success of these and of certain European efforts are vividly portrayed, and the author makes a plea for the governmental establishment of such enterprises.

The remaining fifth of the book is an exposition of the positions of the "pure" and "purified" milk advocates and an outline of a common platform for both looking toward the reform in the milk business. This section deals with the milk question from the more general standpoint indicated in the title of the book. The great problem of bovine tuberculosis and its relation to the community is briefly treated. The conditions of production and distribution and of the inspection to control them are touched upon. It is at this point that the layman needs much more instruction which should not fail to present the economic side of the producer, so much lost sight of when the milk question is studied in the city. Pasteurization and maternal education and especially the education in the care of children as a part of the requirement of our elementary educational curriculum are also discussed.

The interested lay student of the milk question desiring to follow up the subject will find the Notes and Authorities somewhat carelessly put together. It would have been of service if more definite references to state and national government bulletins had been made and attention called to the fact that many of these which are excellently adapted to enlighten the general public are to be had free of cost.

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